

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment accompanies a request for participation in the Patent Prosecution Highway program. Entry and favorable consideration of this Preliminary Amendment are respectfully requested.

Claims 19-30 were previously pending in the present application. This Preliminary Amendment is submitted to place the claims of the present application in direct correspondence with the claims of Japanese National Stage Application No. JP 2007-267244. Accordingly, claims 19-30 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter therein; and claims 31-36 have been added.

Claims 31-36 correspond directly to the claims of Japanese National Stage Application No. JP 2007-267244. Japanese National Stage Application No. JP 2007-267244 is the Japanese counterpart of the present application, and the claims of Japanese National Stage Application No. JP 2007-267244 have been allowed in Japan. No new matter has been introduced by claims 31-36.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone to resolve any issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Tadamasa TOMA et al.

By: /Mark D. Pratt/
2008.04.30 12:21:40 -04'00'

Mark D. Pratt
Registration No. 45794
Attorney for Applicants

MDP(DMO)/ats
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
April 30, 2008